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McManus legislation would allow safer and more efficient transportation of gasoline in Michigan

LANSING – Legislation introduced Thursday in the Michigan Senate would make it easier for utilities to construct certain infrastructure, promoting safer, more efficient delivery to consumers, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, sponsor of the bill.

Senate Bill 522 would give the Michigan Public Service Commission the authority to allow public utilities to construct facilities along the right-of-way of federally-owned limited-access highways, while seeking input from local governments. Under the bill, local governments would not be able to arbitrarily hold up a project that has met all state requirements and approvals.

“This legislation is absolutely vital to protect the ability of utilities to deliver essential services to all areas of the state,” said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “Job development and job growth depend upon the reliable availability of utilities like gas and electricity.”

The bill addresses issues raised in last year’s Supreme Court decision in the case *City of Lansing v. the Michigan Public Service Commission and Wolverine Pipeline Company*. It would remove the roadblock preventing a proposed gas pipeline along the I-96 corridor outside Lansing. The proposed pipeline would ease the supply of gasoline to more than 39 counties in mid and northern Michigan.

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